Department of Advice

Eating healthy

Mary V. Seeman

I cook a meal of rage and rue, A mix of existential stew. It binds my stomach in a knot, All my innards feel like rot.



I bake a cake of hope and mirth, Sweetest taste there is on earth. I can eat it all year round And never ever gain a pound.

I prepare some envy greens, Gussied up with bitter beans. Eaten with nostalgic buns, It produces awful runs.

I brew a tea of giggling glee, Serve it up resentment-free. I feel my neck and back unwind. I feel quite warm toward mankind. I toast a bread of guilt and tears, Spread it thick with jam of fears. After I have had one bite, I am paralyzed with fright.

I broil a steak of "laugh it off," Tender as beef stroganoff, Spice it with forgive, forget. Amazing how relaxed I get.

I make an omelette out of shame, Pepper it with bits of blame Aimed at everyone in turn. My stomach starts at once to churn.

I make a soup of gratitude, Free of pose and attitude, Free of who is right or wrong. Two, three sips and I feel strong.





I eat what's left of last year's lust, Wrapped in hardened crumbling crust. I start shaking, as with chill. These leftovers make me ill.

I make dessert of doomed defeat, Then I put it on to heat. The smell alone can make you sick; I throw it in the garbage, quick.

I cook dinner for my dear. Hors d'oeuvre of joy, entree of cheer. We both feel healthier at the end. That's the way to keep a friend.

Mary Seeman is Staff Psychiatrist at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Toronto, Ont.